



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT JANUARY - DECEMBER 2008

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### **General**

While the Club remained as the third largest gymnastics Club in the ACT, due to the demographics of its location, there was a massive increase in the quality of its programs and the standard of gymnasts being produced.

This has been largely due to a change-over of staff and to a re-vitalisation that our new staff have introduced and the way that our gymnasts have re-acted to the changes. The lower competitive levels in both the men's and women's streams have shown the most improvement with strong showings in both ACT and National competitions. Our senior men's program performed well at National Championships and topped the table at the National Clubs Championships. Our senior women's program excelled with two girls gaining ACT representation at National Championships.

### **Numbers**

The total number of registered gymnasts in the Club in 2008 was 577 with the following registrations recorded:

- 142 MAG;
- 167 WAG;
- 1118 GG;
- 138 Kinder Gym;
- 8 Trampoline; and
- 4 Sports Acrobatics.

The gym is fully utilised during the 4.00pm to 8.00pm time period every week day and all day on Saturday. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays are extremely crowded with Wednesdays not far behind. Most classes are close enough to being full and the primary problem, as it is in every Club, is finding suitable coaches.

The fact that the senior boys are still allowed to train free of charge at the AIS Training Gym is a big advantage and much appreciated. It allows the boys to use the pits when practising moves on all apparatus. This decreases learning time by making it easier and much safer when doing new moves for the first time.

In 2008 we also provided classes in 10 local schools offering classes to some 300 pupils each Term through out the year. Three of the schools utilised the gym during the day for their lessons and this is the most effective way to present this program, ie having the classes come to our coaches in a fully established gymnasium. This means that use of our equipment is maximised, that schools don't have to purchase expensive gymnastics equipment, that our coaches don't have to set up ad hoc training circuits and that they don't have to travel from school to school.

The size of our adult classes tends to fluctuate but they still provide a positive income for the Club.

### **ACT Government Grant**

In 2008 the Club received a \$-for-\$ grant of \$2,200.00, plus GST. This amount was only part of what we had asked and it was specified that the grant was to purchase one men's gymnastics Horizontal Bar Olympic/FIG and one Double Mini Trampoline. Both items were to be purchased directly from ACROMAT Pty Ltd in Adelaide. We were unable to utilise Government money to assist us in purchasing the floor sound system (\$6,000.00) as it was considered to be 'too portable'.

### **Employment of New Chinese Coach**

Following discussions between Zou Limin and myself we decided to look for another coach to assist Limin in preparing boys at a younger age. We advertised the position and received a number of nominations, including one from a friend of Limin's in China. We decided to accept the nomination from the coach, Yu Qiang, in China as his qualifications were excellent and because he would be able to prepare boys the way Limin wanted.

We sponsored Yu Qiang, his wife, Ling Lin, and daughter, Qi Yun, on a visa (457) as a temporary business migrant. He is allowed to stay for a period of four years and apply for permanent residence at any time during that period.

With a great deal of support from parents and coaches from within the gym, Qiang and his family have integrated extremely well. My thanks to those parents and staff for your invaluable assistance.

### **Building Options**

Last year on a visit to the gym, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Andrew Barr, told us to submit a proposal to extend the gym so that we could include pits to enhance training and ease our reliance on the goodwill of the AIS. This we did and in late July the Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, visited the gym with his wife.

We continued to remain in contact with members of the ACT Government and finally extracted an election promise from the ACT Labor Party that an amount of \$550,000 would be allocated to extend the current facility to include pits and that a further \$100,000 would be allocated for equipment if they won the September election.

This they did and we were informed that they would honour their promise in the May 2009 ACT Budget.

## Administration

In 2008, our staff consisted of:

- 1 full-time Office Manager, June Luthy;
- 3 full-time MAG coaches, Zou Li Min, Bob Morton and Yu Qiang (from May 2008);
- 1 full-time Head Coach of General Gymnastics, Recreational Levels and Sports Acrobatics, Quintin Gravatt;
- 2 permanent part-time WG coaches, Ellen Henderson, as Program Manager, and Tae Tyrrel;
- 11 casual MAG coaches, 10 of whom had Level 1 qualifications;
- 27 casual WAG coaches, 6 of whom had Level 1 qualifications;
- 22 of these coaches were under 18 years of age; and
- 4 young WG gymnasts from the AIS assisted as casual coaches through out the year.

During the year, the Club employed a total of some 44 coaches with a total wages bill of over \$350,000.

With David Norgate's departure in July 2007, we were left with problem that was further exacerbated when Kate Laing decided, for personal family reasons, to depart soon after. Fortunately Quintin Gravatt, stepped into the breach and took over managing the General Gymnastics, the Recreational and the junior MG programs. He has done a superb job, taking more and more responsibility, relieving me of much of the day-to-day administration. I thank him sincerely.

Quintin has also introduced Sports Acrobatics into the gym. It is a personal love of his and one where his expertise in the ACT is unique.

Bernadette McIntosh has continued to spend an inordinate amount of time in the Office managing and continuing to sort out the books of account. We continue to have problems collecting fees and reconciling our accounts. This is a major area of concern and one, if not fixed, will prove to be the undoing of all we do in the gym itself. Again, I offer my particular thanks to Bernadette for the time that she has devoted to the Club in working on our books of account.

## ACT Competitions

The Club supported all ACT competitions through-out the year and achieved the following results:

- MAG Level 6 (Under 12) – Level 9 Trials and State Titles:
  - Ben Reading-Thompson – Level 6 (Under 12) State Champion;
  - Brydon Davidson – Level 7 (Open) State Champion;
  - Emil Tow – Level 8 (Open) State Champion;
  - Rhys Cormick – Level 9 (Open) State Champion.
- MAG Level 1 – 3 Trials and State Titles:
  - Level 1- 3 - WVGC Second Club Team;

- MAG Level 4 – 6 (Open) Trials and State Titles:
  - Oliver Turner - Level 4 (Open) State Champion;
  - Julian Oliver – Level 4 (Under 10) State Champion;
  - Charlie Pocock - Level 5 (Open) State Champion.
- WAG Level 1- 3 Trials and State Titles:
  - Level 1 – Lauren George – 1<sup>st</sup> Overall.
- WAG Level 4 – Level 10 Trials and State Titles:
  - Level 4
    - Joanna De Souza - State Champion;
    - Aimee Warnock - 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall.
  - Level 5
    - Marissa Jelfs – State Champion;
    - Anna Roufogalis – 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall.
  - Level 4 – 6 Team – WVGC – 1<sup>st</sup> Overall.
- ACT Levels Program competition and grading; and
- Canberra City Gymnastics Club Invitational Event.

Rhys Cormick was appointed as the 2008 ACT MAG Gymnast of the Year.

Our senior WAG program continues to grow in strength with our girls gradually overhauling those from Canberra City and Sothern Canberra Gymnastics Clubs. Our coaches are really working hard and are being assisted by our relationship with the AIS through Tae Tyrrel and the fact that the AIS gymnasts seem to appreciate the atmosphere generated within the Club.

### **MAG National Championships**

The following boys represented the ACT at National Championships and achieved very good results, winning two gold medals, one silver medal and two bronze medals.

- **MAG Level 6 (Under 12)**
  - Harry Andrews
  - Eric Ciesiolka
  - Matt Molloy
  - Ben Reading-Thompson
  - Sullivan Gravatt
- **MAG Level 7 (Open)**
  - Ethan Beukman
  - Brydon Davidson                    2<sup>nd</sup> on Floor
  - Peter Deards
  - Taron Evans
  - Liam Priddle
  - Marc Quantock                    3<sup>rd</sup> on Floor; 1<sup>st</sup> on Vault
  - Sam Shellard

- **MAG Level 8 (Open)**
  - Zac Major
  - Emil Tow
- **MAG Level 9 (Open)**
  - Rhys Cormick
  - Takuto Ichihara
- **MAG Level 9 (Under 17)**
  - Jordan Read
- **MAG Level 10 (Under 18)**
  - Mark Richardson

3<sup>rd</sup> on Rings1<sup>st</sup> on Floor

### **WAG National Championships**

This year we again gained representation at National Championships, with two girls representing the ACT:

- **WAG Level 7**
  - Gemma Fallon
  - Laura Henderson

### **National Clubs Championships**

MAG and WAG again combined in 2008 to conduct the National Clubs Championships in Canberra. Although the event was conducted over two weeks at the AIS Arena, the numbers of MG was down considerably. Volunteer assistance was again readily forthcoming and our thanks go to all who assisted and helped in raising some \$3,000 for the Club. Again the boys did particularly well, gaining the following results:

- MAG Champion Club      WVGC 1<sup>st</sup> Overall;
- Level 8/9:                    1<sup>st</sup> Overall
  - Rhys Cormick – 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall;
  - Cameron Dally - 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall
- Level 7:                      3<sup>rd</sup> Overall
- Level 5/6:                  2<sup>nd</sup> Overall
- Level 4:                      1<sup>st</sup> Overall
  - Julian Oliver – 1<sup>st</sup> Overall;
  - Oliver Turner – 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall

Woden supplied nearly 25% of the male competitors and so I informed the ACTGA and GA that Woden would not compete at this competition in future as we appeared to be the only major MG Club supporting the competition. This is in line with the views expressed by all senior coaches and the major MG Clubs in Australia.

## **Conclusion**

2008 has been a positive and successful year.

- My thanks go to all the volunteers who have done so much in keeping the fabric of the Club functioning in Working Bees, at competitions and in particular at the National Clubs Championships.
- I would also like to thank our senior coaches for their constant support and dedication, for the way that they have helped the junior coaches grow and mature.
- I would like to thank the members of the Club Committee who have worked hard to keep the Club focussed and who have produced many innovative and fresh ideas to the table. My thanks for your support through out the year in helping to manage the bigger picture.

**R B MORTON**

**President**